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O'Malley, Mary and Hess, Jordan, "SB73-14/15: Transportation Fee Referendum" (2015). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 473.

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**The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Transportation Fee Referendum**

March 18, 2015

SB73-14/15

**Authored by: Mary O'Malley, ASUM Senator; Jordan Hess, ASUM Office of
Transportation Director**

Sponsored by: ASUM Board on Transportation

Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana's Office of Transportation (ASUM OT) serves to increase student transportation options through the UDASH bus service and bike programming and infrastructure projects;

Whereas, ASUM OT provides transportation awareness to the University of Montana campus and community through rideshare matching services, individualized trip planning assistance, and education campaigns like Walk & Roll Week;

Whereas, 94% of students in a 2012 survey value the transportation options provided by ASUM OT;

Whereas, 32% of students in a 2012 survey reported that they bike to campus every day and over 4,500 bike commuters to campus were counted in a 2012 City of Missoula bike count;

Whereas, Section 4.4.2 of the University of Montana Climate Action Plan tasks ASUM OT with increasing incentives to bike or walk to campus by constructing on-campus covered bike parking and providing more visibility for bike incentive programs throughout the year;

Whereas, ASUM OT has limited resources to maintain and effectively supervise bike rental and bike maintenance student workers and programming;

Whereas, the creation of a permanent full-time office position would create increased capacity to hire student workers and oversee transportation programming, as well as provide increased efficiency and continuity within ASUM OT;

Whereas, ASUM OT student bus drivers' starting wages are no longer competitive due to increases in minimum wage and inflation;

Whereas, ASUM OT student bus drivers' current starting wages are substandard when compared to peers in the same profession and no longer reflect the level of training, responsibility, and professionalism attained;

Whereas, federal grants would allow ASUM OT to leverage student funds much more effectively, but ASUM OT cannot accept grants for new buses because it does not have matching funds available;

Whereas, if a bus were to be found unsafe or unusable, replacing said bus would be challenging and a decline in service would be likely;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that this fee increase will be placed as a referendum item on the ballot of the spring 2015 ASUM election;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that ASUM recommends the following ballot language:

The Transportation Fee supports the ASUM Office of Transportation. The ASUM Office of Transportation provides transportation options to the University of Montana community. These include high-frequency fare-free bus service to campus, late-night safe ride bus service, semester-long bicycle rentals, free two-day bike checkouts, and individualized trip planning. The services relieve traffic and parking congestion and reduce campus emissions. The ASUM Office of Transportation is one of the only student-run transportation systems in the country.

A \$4.50 per semester increase to the Transportation Fee is needed to sustain the pilot bus services, including the new Purple Line with service to 5th, 6th, and Russell Streets; replace aging bus fleet more quickly (\$1.92); expand the Yellow U Bike checkout fleet (\$0.50); provide more low-cost semester bicycle rentals; offer competitive; living wages to student drivers (\$0.66); and build secure and covered bike parking in at least 10 locations around campus (\$1.42).

[] Yes, I approve an increase to the Transportation Fee of \$4.50 per semester.

[] No, I do not approve an increase to the Transportation Fee of \$4.50 per semester

Passed by Committee: _____, 2015

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2015

Sarah Smith,
Relations and Affairs Chair

Sean McQuillan,
ASUM Senate Chair